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Fishing Regulations

Yellowstone National Park

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Fishing Regulations

Yellowstone National Park 1978

FISHING IN A NATIONAL PARK

Yellowstone is the world's first national park established for the protection of nature.

Fishing is permitted where it is compatible with the basic purpose of the park preserving natural environments and providing the opportunity for visitors to see and appreciate native plant and animal life as it occurred in primitive America Fishing in the wild environment of a national park is just one of the many ingredients that can contribute to a fulfilling park experience. Fishing by humans can be compatible with the park's basic purpose if it does not take away food that supports the fish-eating birds and animals and if it does not overexploit native fish populations to the extent that fish numbers decline.

> The 13-inch maximum size limit in the Yellowstone Lake drainage may seem strange, but is designed to protect the larger native fish, which in this case are more effective in reproduction and are the primary predators on the non-native Longnose Sucker This latter fish was introduced in the 1930's by bait fishermen, and the population is now seriously competing with the native Trout. The alternative to the 13 inch limit was to close the drainage entirely or to restrict it altogether to catch-and-release fishing. With the current rule, it is possible to allow anglers to catch and release the larger fish and still have the opportunity of keeping two fish less than 13 inches in length.

In Yellowstone bald eagles, ospreys, pelicans, otters, grizzly bears and other park wildlife take precedence over humans in utilizing fish as food You are encouraged to enjoy fishing as a means of seeing and learning about the wild fish that inhabit Yellowstone waters. But to help preserve these opportunities for future generations, the National Park Service asks that you carefully release your fish or keep only one or two for a campfire meal.

Fish to be released should be handled only with a fine-meshed landing net, and the hook removed with a long-nosed plier If these are not available, grasp the fish carefully behind the head, and without removing it from the water, extract the hook with the fingers. The use of barbless hooks is a definite asset here The fish should then be released simply by relaxing the fingers If necessary, support the fish in an upright position until it regains its equilibrium.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming

1978 Fishing Regulations

GENERAL REGULATIONS

(1) FISHING PERMIT:

A current annual non fee fishing permit is required and shall be in the possession of all persons twelve years of age and older who are fishing in the waters of Yellowstone National Park Said permit shall be displayed on demand of any authorized representative of the Superintendent

(2) OPEN FISHING SEASON:
(See Fishing Map on Reverse)

Zones 1 2, 3 and 5 are open to fishing on May 28th. Zones 4 and 6 have later opening dates, so check these specific zone regulations before fishing All fishing in the park closes on October 31

The daily fishing period is from 5 00 a m MDT to 10 00 p m , MDT

(3) PROTECTED SPECIES:

Killing or possessing grayling is prohibited All those caught must be returned unharmed to the water They are easily identified by the extremely large dorsal fin (See illustration on the front of these regulations)

(4) CLOSED WATERS:

Zones 1, 3, 4 and 6 have some of their waters closed to fishing Before fishing in these zones, read the specific regulations

IN ALL ZONES

1 Fishing from motor road bridges is prohibited

2 Other park waters not specifically identified may, by the conspicuous posting of signs, be temporarily closed to fishing for spawning or research study purposes

(5) CATCH AND RELEASE WATERS:
(See Fishing Map and Zone Regulations)

Catch and release shall mean that all fish caught shall be carefully and immediately returned to the water from which they were taken Zones 2, 4, 5 and 6 contain catch and release waters Before fishing in these zones, read the specific regulations

(6) CATCH LIMITS: (See Fishing Map and Zone Regulations)

The killing or possession of grayling is prohibited For other fish, the basic limit on park waters open to fishing is two (2) fish, per day or in possession Exceptions to this are the catch-and-release areas described in zone regulations and the additional limit permitted in Zone 1

(7) LENGTH LIMITS:
(See Fishing Map and Zone Regulations)

Zones 3 and 6 have specific length limits In all other zones, no length limit applies

(8) TACKLE AND BAIT RESTRICTIONS:

Each fisherman may use only one rod or line, which must be held in the hand Fishing in any other manner is prohibited Only artificial lures may be used and these lures may have only one hook This hook may have single double or treble points. Dropper loops may be used, with two or more flies on one line

No snagging is permitted, no natural bait may be used, and no salmon eggs, processed or otherwise, are permitted Exception See Zone 1 Regulations

ZONE REGULATIONS

Zone 1 — The Gallatin River Drainage, Grayling, Duck, and Cougar Creek drainages, Mol Heron Creek drainage, Reese, Stephen, and Landslide Creek drainages, the Gardner River drainage and the Yellowstone River drainage from the north boundary upstream to the Chittenden Bridge at Canyon, excluding the Lamar River

SEASON: May 28-October 21

CLOSED WATERS:
1 The Mammoth Water Supply Reservoir
2 The Yellowstone River from the Chittenden Bridge downstream to a point directly below the overlook known as Inspiration Point

CATCH AND RELEASE WATERS:
1 Cascade Lake

CATCH LIMITS: Except for Cascade Lake, five (5) fish per day or in possession, providing at least three are brook trout

LENGTH LIMITS: None

TACKLE AND BAIT: Persons 12 years of age or under may fish with worms as bait on the Gardner River, Obsidian Creek, Indian Creek and Panther Creek

Zone 2 — The Lamar River drainage, plus the Middle Creek drainage east of Sylvan Pass

OPEN SEASON: May 28-October 31

CLOSED WATERS: None

CATCH AND RELEASE:
1 Slough Creek and its tributaries, including McBride Lake
2 Lamar River proper from its confluence with the Yellowstone River upstream to the mouth of Cache Creek

CATCH LIMITS: Except for catch and release waters, two fish per day or in possession

LENGTH LIMITS: None

TACKLE AND BAIT: See General Regulations

Zone 3 — The Madison River drainage

OPEN SEASON: May 28-October 31

CLOSED WATERS:
1 Old Faithful water supply consisting of that section of the Firehole River from the Old Faithful water intake to the Shoshone Lake trail crossing above Lone Star Geyser
2 Those portions of the Firehole River identified by the posting of appropriate signs, which lie in the immediate vicinity of hazardous or fragile thermal features

CATCH AND RELEASE WATERS: None

LENGTH LIMITS: On the Madison and Firehole Rivers and the lower Gibbon River up to Gibbon Falls, the minimum length is 16 inches (406 mm.) All other waters in Zone 3, no length limit

TACKLE AND BAIT RESTRICTIONS: See General Regulations The Madison and Firehole Rivers and the Gibbon River below Gibbon Falls are restricted to artificial flies only

CATCH LIMITS: Two (2) fish per day or in possession.

Zone 4 — The Yellowstone River drainage from Chittenden Bridge upstream to a point one mile (1 6 kilometers) downstream from the Yellowstone Lake outlet

OPEN SEASON: July 15-October 31

CLOSED WATERS: The Yellowstone River and its tributary streams from the Sulphur Caldron downstream to Alum Creek

CATCH AND RELEASE WATERS:
1 Yellowstone River proper from one mile below the Yellowstone Lake outlet downstream to the Sulphur Caldron (Zone 4) (1 6 kilometers)
2. Yellowstone River proper from Alum Creek downstream to the Upper Falls (Zone 4)

LENGTH LIMITS: None

TACKLE AND BAIT: See General Regulations

CATCH LIMIT: In waters other than catch and release or closed waters two (2) fish per day or in possession.

Zone 5 — All waters on the west slope of the Continental Divide

OPEN SEASON: May 28-October 31

CLOSED WATERS: None

CATCH AND RELEASE WATERS:
1 Lewis River proper below Lewis Falls
2 Heart Lake and its tributaries, and the Heart River downstream to Outlet Creek, is catch-and-release for cutthroat trout only For macs, brown and rainbow, zone limits apply
3 Pocket Lake

CATCH LIMITS: Except for catch and release waters listed above, Two (2) fish per day or in possession.

LENGTH LIMITS: None

TACKLE AND BAIT: See General Regulations

Zone 6 — The Yellowstone River drainage, including Yellowstone Lake, from a point one mile downstream from the Yellowstone Lake Outlet, upstream to the park boundary

OPEN SEASON:
Lakes June 15-October 31
Streams July 15-October 31

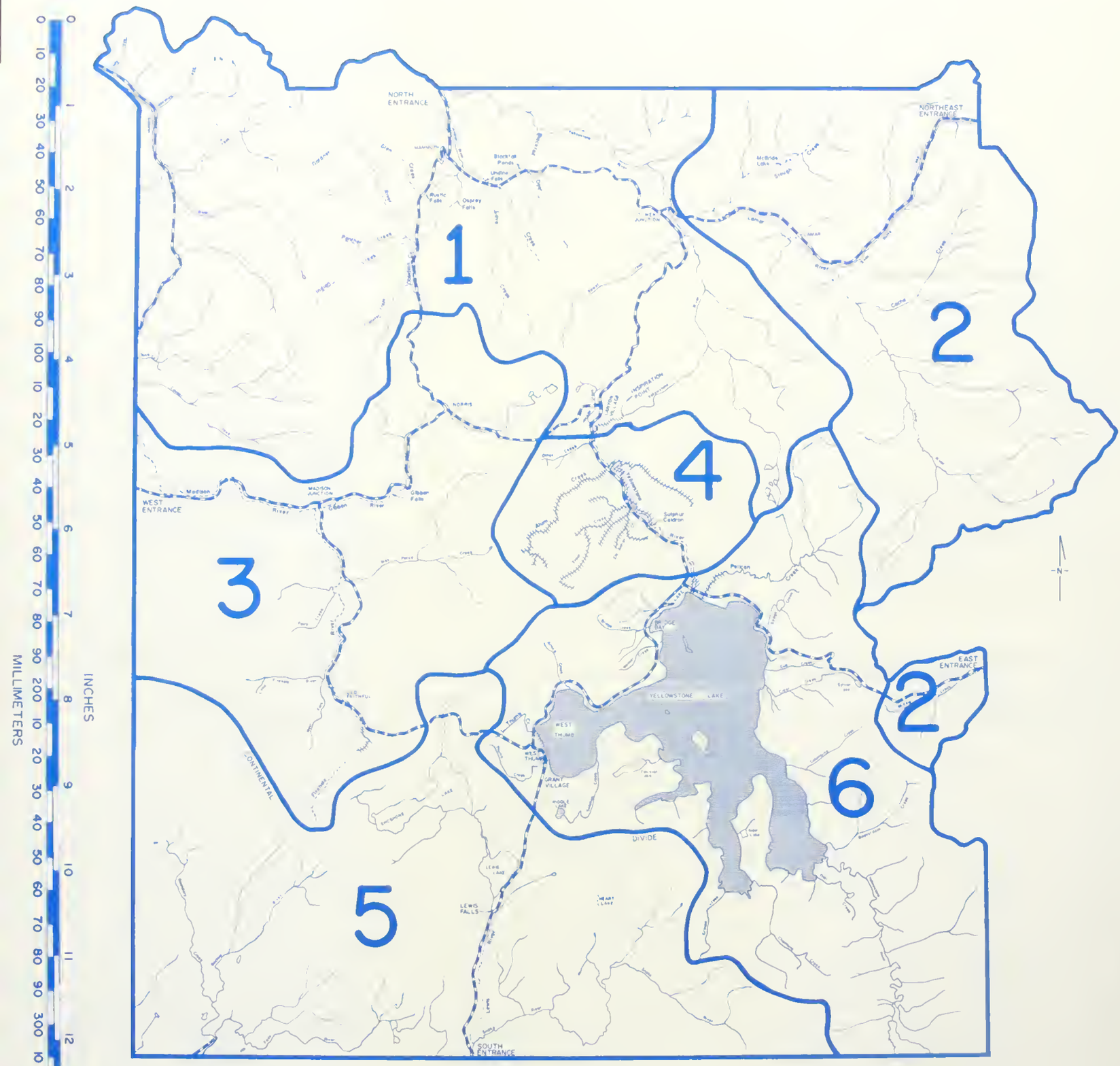
CLOSED WATERS:
1 The Yellowstone River and its tributary streams from the Yellowstone Lake outlet to a point one mile (1.6 kilometers) downstream
[redacted]
3 Bridge Bay Lagoon and Marina and Grant Village and Marina and their connecting channels with Yellowstone Lake
4 Fishing is prohibited from the shores of the southern extreme of the West Thumb thermal area (posted) along the shore of Yellowstone Lake to the mouth of Little Thumb Creek
5 Fishing is prohibited from the shores of Yellowstone Lake within 100 yards of the mouth of any stream that is closed to fishing

CATCH AND RELEASE WATERS: Sylvan Lake

CATCH LIMITS: Except for Sylvan Lake, two (2) fish per day or in possession, *under* 13 inches (330 mm)

LENGTH LIMITS: On all waters in this zone the *maximum* length limit is under 13 inches (330 mm) All fish 13 inches (330 mm) or over must be released See explanation at left under, "Fishing in a National Park" Removal of the heads or tails of any fish caught in Zone 6 is prohibited until the angler is off the lake or stream and has returned to his auto, camp or to the established fish cleaning station at Bridge Bay.

Note Printing error above, zone 6 regulations
1 The lower two miles of Pelican Creek are closed to fishing
2 The remainder of Pelican Creek and its tributaries are open to catch and release fishing



YELLOWSTONE FISHING MAP — 1978

(See reverse for general regulations)

ZONE 1

Season May 28 to October 31

LIMITS

Solid Lines	Two fish, any size
Dotted Lines	Five fish, any size except three must be brook trout
Cross-hatched	Closed to fishing

ZONES 2 & 5

Season May 28 to October 31

LIMITS

Solid Lines	Two fish, any size
Dotted Lines	Catch and release only In Heart Lake and tributaries, applies only to Cutthroat Trout

ZONE 3

Season May 28 to October 31

LIMITS

Solid Lines	Two fish, any size
Dotted Lines	Fly fishing only. Two fish, 16 inches or over (406 mm)
Cross-hatched	Closed to fishing

ZONE 4

Season July 15 to October 31

LIMITS

Solid Lines	Two fish, any size
Dotted Lines	Catch and release only
Cross-hatched	Closed to fishing

ZONE 6

Season

Streams	July 15 to October 31
Lakes	June 15 to October 31

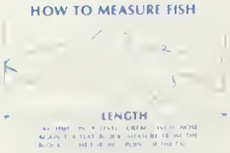
LIMITS

Solid Lines	Catch and release except that fish under 13 inches (330 mm) may be kept
Cross-hatched	Closed to fishing
Dotted Lines	Catch and release only

ALL WATERS NOT SHOWN

Zone seasons and limits apply

HOW TO MEASURE FISH



LIMIT 2 fish, any size
SEE ZONE REGULATIONS

SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS ON LIMITS OR TACKLE
SEE ZONE REGULATIONS

CLOSED TO FISHING

PARK ROAD

ZONE BOUNDARY

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1978 Fishing

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